(a) whether the Ministry has received any proposal from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh for appointing a Statutory Regulator for pricing of domestically produced natural gas and not to effect any increase in the current gas price of US Dollar 3.3 per MMBU for deep sea gas;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the above said proposal; and

(d) by when this proposal is likely to be given clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, A request from Government of Andhra Pradesh has been received to establish a market regulator for upstream gas pricing.

Under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) the contractor has freedom to market the gas at market related prices. PSCs are legally binding contracts, which have been signed pursuant to the transparent NELP approved by the Government.

Waiting list for new LPG connections

3621. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as on 1st November, 2006, 11,912 applicants for new LPG connection were in the waiting list;

(b) if so, whether this situation has improved in the meantime;

(c) the number of such applicants in the latest waiting list; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to clear the waiting list for new LPG connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there was a waiting list of 63543 for release of new LPG connections in the country as on 1st November, 2006. The above waiting list has been liquidated by March, 2007.

(c) and (d) The enrolment of new LPG Customers and Release of LPG connections is a continuous process. OMCs have reported a waiting list of 16,670 for release of new LPG connections in the State of Andhra Pradesh and in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep as on 1.4.2007 OMCs have reported that waiting list is expected to be cleared by the end of May, 2007.

LPG connection in Jharkhand

3622. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribal families in Jharkhand who do not have LPG connections;

(b) whether Government propose to supply LPG connections to all the tribals of Jharkhand;

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when everybody will be given LPG connections on demand;

(d) whether it is a fact that LPG refill cylinders are in short supply and people have to wait for a long time to get the refill; and

(e) if so, by when it will be solved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that they do not maintain data on tribal families in the country including Jharkhand who do not have LPG connection.

(b) and (c) At present, new LPG connections are available across the counter for genuine domestic customers and there is no overall waiting list for release of new connection in the State of Jharkhand.

(d) and (e) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including Jharkhand and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors.

Kisan Sahayak Kendra Scheme

3623. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: